



NEW MARLBOROUGH

Berkshire County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of New Marlborough is situated on uneven and hilly terrain on an elevated plateau in the southern Berkshires. It was one of the four towns established by the Great and General Court to settle and protect the wilderness trail that was the single route at the time from the lower Housatonic Valley to the Connecticut Valley and Boston. The territory of New Marlborough was granted as the six-mile square Township #2 in 1735. The surveys of the town were completed in 1737 and the proprietors bought the land the town is on from the Indians for 300 English pounds, a greater sum "than ever paid by other proprietors", as they complained to the General Court. There were 63 original home lots laid out in a "compact and defensible form", one for each of the two ministers expected in the new town, one for a school and one each for the grantees. The grantees were required to put down 40 Sterling pounds to secure their grant. The first settler, Benjamin Wheeler, built his house in 1739 and the first children born in town were twins, a daughter and son for Mr. and Mrs. Brookins. The town meeting of 1774 in New Marlborough gave staunch support to the principles of liberty and inalienable rights which would later be embodied in the Constitution of the new country. By 1759 there were enough settlers to secure formal incorporation of the town.

New Marlborough contains a part of scenic Lake Buel, on which a steamboat ran in the 19th century, Campbell's Falls where the Whiting River pours down an 80' drop, and Tipping Rock. The Rock, a huge 40-ton boulder left behind by retreating glaciers in the ice-age, balances so delicately that one finger can tilt a weight that a bulldozer couldn't move. The town is 1400' above sea level offering cool, fresh mountain air to folk from the city. The town had a number of summer visitors in the 19th century, but its character of a summer resort probably begins formally in 1878 when I.M. Tuttle took over the abandoned buildings of the South Berkshire Institute and began hosting summer boarders, some of whom stayed through the fall. A guide to the Berkshires in 1889 describes the foliage in the autumn as a "wonderful, flaming, shading, rioting of color."

Despite its tourist industry, the town was basically an manufacturing village with grist and cider mills, box factory and the Sheffield Clay Works providing clay for the three major paper mills in town. Stage lines went through town bringing prosperity until the railroad usurped the traffic.

Modern New Marlborough has a well preserved village center clustered around its central green and is more of a residential and rural center than an industrial one.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative compiled from historical materials)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Southwestern Massachusetts, bordered by Monterey on the north; Sandisfield on the east; Norfolk and North Canaan, Connecticut, on the south; Sheffield on the west; and Great Barrington on the northwest. New Marlborough is 28 miles south of Pittsfield, 47 miles west of Springfield, and 136 miles southwest of Boston.

Total Area: 47.89 sq. miles

Land Area: 47.20 sq. miles

Population: 1,240

Density: 26 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Great Barrington Station)

Normal temperature in January.....20.1°F

Normal temperature in July.....68.1°F

Normal annual precipitation.....44.8"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

South Sandisfield, Ashley Falls, Monterey, Great Barrington

Regional Planning Agency

Berkshire County

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 229-8116

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen
Executive Assistant
Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1759

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	775		
Democrats	115	14.8	%
Republicans	150	19.4	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	510	65.8	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: New Marlborough town, Berkshire County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	1,494	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	1,494	100.0
Male.....	770	51.5	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	17	1.1
Female.....	724	48.5	Mexican.....	1	0.1
Under 5 years.....	86	5.8	Puerto Rican.....	5	0.3
5 to 9 years.....	83	5.6	Cuban.....	1	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	111	7.4	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	10	0.7
15 to 19 years.....	131	8.8	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	1,477	98.9
20 to 24 years.....	57	3.8	White alone.....	1,443	96.6
25 to 34 years.....	148	9.9	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	229	15.3	Total population.....	1,494	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	253	16.9	In households.....	1,406	94.1
55 to 59 years.....	101	6.8	Householder.....	582	39.0
60 to 64 years.....	79	5.3	Spouse.....	338	22.6
65 to 74 years.....	116	7.8	Child.....	384	25.7
75 to 84 years.....	79	5.3	Own child under 18 years.....	301	20.1
85 years and over.....	21	1.4	Other relatives.....	39	2.6
Median age (years).....	41.2	(X)	Under 18 years.....	12	0.8
18 years and over.....	1,125	75.3	Nonrelatives.....	63	4.2
Male.....	575	38.5	Unmarried partner.....	37	2.5
Female.....	550	36.8	In group quarters.....	88	5.9
21 years and over.....	1,068	71.5	Institutionalized population.....	88	5.9
62 years and over.....	263	17.6	Noninstitutionalized population.....	-	-
65 years and over.....	216	14.5	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	100	6.7	Total households.....	582	100.0
Female.....	116	7.8	Family households (families).....	404	69.4
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	166	28.5
One race.....	1,486	99.5	Married-couple family.....	338	58.1
White.....	1,457	97.5	With own children under 18 years.....	141	24.2
Black or African American.....	25	1.7	Female householder, no husband present.....	38	6.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	-	-	With own children under 18 years.....	15	2.6
Asian.....	2	0.1	Nonfamily households.....	178	30.6
Asian Indian.....	1	0.1	Householder living alone.....	146	25.1
Chinese.....	-	-	Householder 65 years and over.....	51	8.8
Filipino.....	-	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	173	29.7
Japanese.....	-	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	159	27.3
Korean.....	-	-	Average household size.....	2.42	(X)
Vietnamese.....	1	0.1	Average family size.....	2.88	(X)
Other Asian ¹	-	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	963	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	582	60.4
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	381	39.6
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	333	34.6
Some other race.....	2	0.1	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	3.1	(X)
Two or more races.....	8	0.5	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	5.7	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	582	100.0
White.....	1,465	98.1	Owner-occupied housing units.....	466	80.1
Black or African American.....	29	1.9	Renter-occupied housing units.....	116	19.9
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	3	0.2	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.43	(X)
Asian.....	3	0.2	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.35	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-			
Some other race.....	2	0.1			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	0
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

New Marlborough is situated in Berkshire County, a region of hills and low mountains that widen to create the Berkshire Valley in the south. The major cities and towns are linked together by U.S. Route 7. North Adams and Pittsfield are major points of entry for rail freight into Massachusetts, and the region has several commercial airports.

Major Highways

The principal highway is State Route 57, which runs NW-SE between Great Barrington and Springfield.

Rail

Freight service is available from the Hoosetonic Railroad, which has public delivery tracks in Sheffield and in Canaan, Connecticut.

Bus

New Marlborough is not affiliated with a regional transit authority.

Other

The Great Barrington Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is easily accessible. It has a 2,579'x 50' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.